FACULTY

Tom Beyer, author and translator of fifteen books, has taught Russian and Russian literature at Middlebury for thirty years. Along the way he has explored with students the meaning of life as presented by Dostoevsky and Tolstoy and the connection of memory and imagination in artists as diverse as Andrew Lloyd Webber and Vladimir Nabokov. Dan Brown's novel conveniently combined Tom's Georgetown Jesuit education and interests in the esoteric, the occult, and just plain old conspiracy theories. His Alumni College course grows out of a first year seminar that has produced hundreds of pages of student commentary and annotations to the book.

Peter Nelson joined the Middlebury Geography faculty in 1999. Illustrations from Vermont frequently figure in his human geography courses, which focus on rural economic change, urban development, and demographic change in North America. Peter's research interests focus on counter-urbanization, or the migration of people out of cities into the countryside. Currently, he has grants from the Department of Agriculture and the Social Security Administration to support research on the migration of the Baby Boomers as they move into retirement and the movement of Social Security and investment income that accompanies them. Away from his teaching and research, Peter is an avid outdoorsman and cyclist.

Chris Watters likes to eat; he tends to consume more calories than he burns; and he craves good coffee and dark chocolate, probably for similar pharmacological reasons. He has happily eaten "bangers 'n' mash" in England, haggis in Scotland and, more recently, injera and "fasting pizza" in Ethiopia. Chris says that these are his only credentials for teaching a course on human nutrition. In fact, he is a first-rate scientist, who has been teaching cell biology at Middlebury for 36 years. Chris' research has ranged from the transport of calcium into milk to current work on molecular simulation of protein structure and function. Chris devoted half of a recent year's leave to teaching molecular and cell biology at Addis Abba University in Ethiopia.

The faculty in the India course represent a mix of Alumni College veterans and new faces. The veterans are Cynthia Atherton, an art historian who specializes in India, and has written extensively on the art of Indian temples; Russ Leng, a political scientist, who has recently published a book dealing with the India-Pakistan rivalry; and Sunder Ramaswamy, a specialist in development economics, who is just returning from a two-year leave in India, where he assumed the Directorship of the Madras School of Economics. The newcomers are Ian Barrow, an historian of South Asia, who currently is researching the history displayed in museums devoted to assassinated South Asian leaders, and who will lead this course; Yumna Siddiqi, from the English department, who teaches and does research on colonial and post-colonial literature in South Asia; and William Waldron, from Religion, who specializes on South Asian religion and has written on Indian Buddhism.

Alumni College at Bread Loaf

30th Anniversary

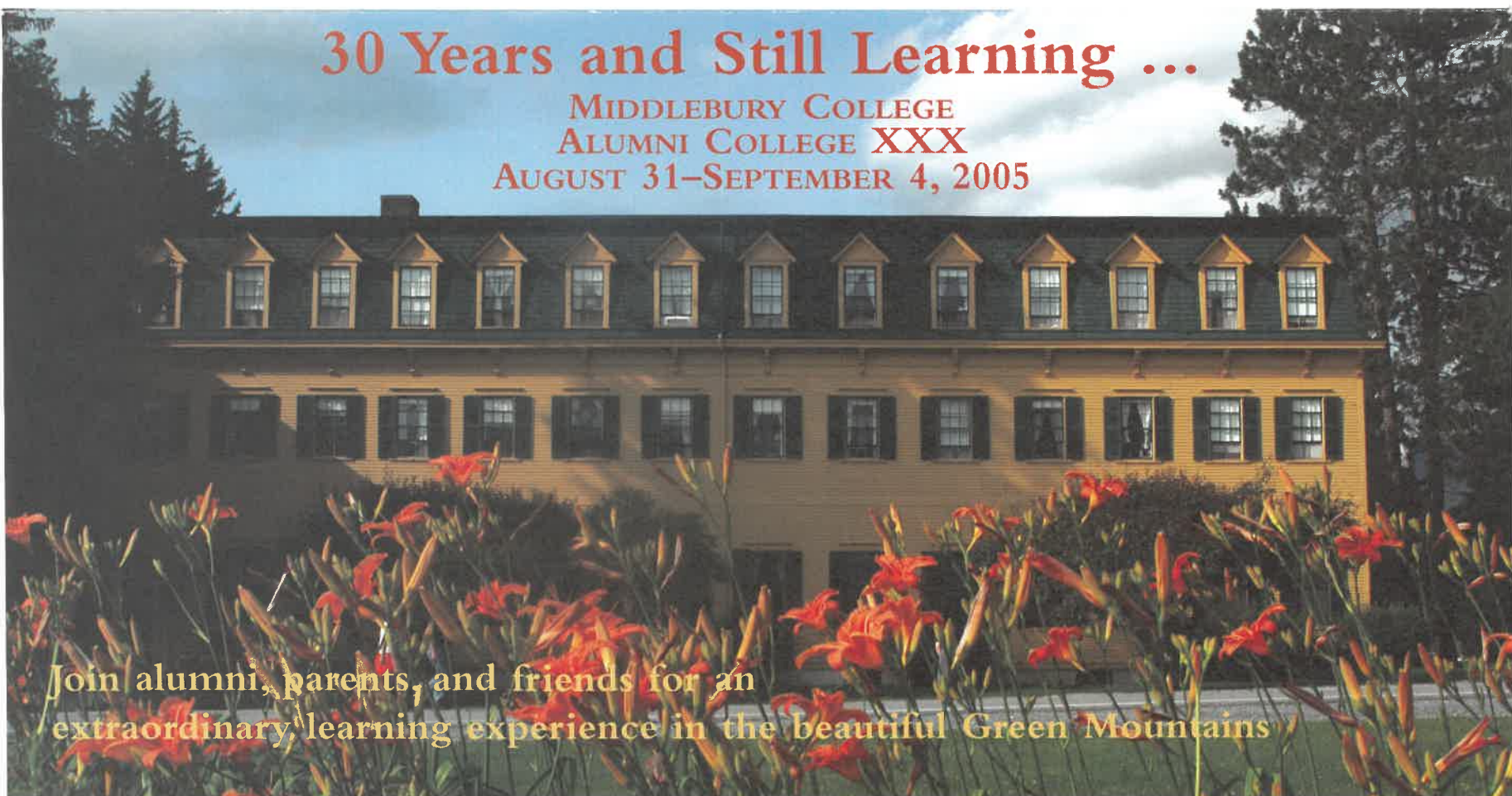
This summer will be our 30th year of Alumni College at Bread Loaf, and we plan to celebrate the occasion. We have re-instituted a "Miscellany" course, with diverse lectures by different faculty, so that we could assemble a course composed of a 30th anniversary all-star team. Alumni College participants selected their ten favorites from a grand list of 87 Alumni College instructors.

We will continue our recent practice of offering a course on a particular country or region, with a course on India, which will be taught by six faculty members from six different disciplines. They will lead an exploration of India's history, politics, economy, religion, art, and literature. This year's outdoor course will explore the Vermont countryside, by bicycle, from the perspective of a Middlebury geographer, Peter Nelson. For those of us who wonder about what we are eating, and what some of the popular diet fads might be doing to us, biology's Chris Watters considers nutrition from an evolutionary perspective. Finally, to balance evolutionary science with some religion, Tom Beyer will lead an informed discussion of what is fact, what is fiction, and why it matters, in the long-running best seller, *The DaVinci Code*.

Classes end in mid-afternoon, when you will have a chance to continue conversations with old and new friends, do some hiking in the Green Mountains, or just quietly enjoy the late summer in the beautiful natural setting of Bread Loaf. As always, there will be convivial social hours, fine food and interesting evening entertainment. On Saturday evening we will be joined by faculty and administration friends from summers past for a proper anniversary celebration.

Alumni and Parent Programs
Alumni College XXX
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Photos by Ed Brown


30 Years and Still Learning ...
Middlebury College
Alumni College XXX
August 31–September 4, 2005
Join alumni, parents, and friends for an
extraordinary learning experience in the beautiful Green Mountains

Course Descriptions

1. 30th Anniversary Miscellany: Faculty Favorites Over Three Decades

Glenn Andres, Art History; John Berninghausen, Chinese Studies; Nicholas Clifford, History; Eric Davis, Political Science; Murray Dry, Political Science; John Elder, English and Environmental Studies; Robert Hill, English; Kirsten Hoving, Art History; John Hunisak, Art History; John McCardell, History.

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Alumni College, we polled past Alumni College participants, and asked them to select their favorite professors from over the past three decades so that we could field an all-star team for a series of lectures. The faculty who were the top vote-getters are primarily from four fields: art, politics, history, and literature, but the course will be a true miscellany. Each faculty member has been asked simply to choose a topic that he or she finds particularly interesting and that should be of interest to Alumni College participants. The names of the faculty favorites will be familiar to Alumni College regulars, but some of the topics may surprise you.

2. India: Past, Present, and Future

Cynthia Atherton, Professor of History of Art and Architecture; Ian Barrow, Associate Professor of History; Russell Leng, James Jermain Professor of Political Economy and International Law; Sunder Ramaswamy, F.C. Dirks Professor of International Economics; Yumna Siddiqi, Assistant Professor of English; and William Waldron, Associate Professor of Religion.

India's unique and exotic culture has long held a fascination for Westerners. Today it also boasts the world's largest democracy, one of its most rapidly growing economies, and some of the most popular writers now writing in English. But India also is a state with a diverse and fragile social order, which is engaged in one of the world's most intractable and dangerous rivalries. A number of Middlebury faculty members will team-up to lead an exploration of India's history, its rivalry with Pakistan, its recent economic boom, and Indian culture, past and present, including its two great religions, Hinduism and Islam, its art and its writers.

3. The Keys to *The DaVinci Code*

Thomas Beyer, Professor of Russian

Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* has sold over ten million copies and spawned a dozen books of commentary and criticism, thousands of articles and over two million web pages. "My hope in writing this novel was that the story would serve as a catalyst and a springboard for people to discuss the important topics of faith, religion, and history." What's behind the hype and the hoax? We'll look carefully at the novel, its assertions, its background, the controversies and conspiracies, in an effort to separate fiction from fact, as we consider the subjects mentioned in Brown's quote. Here is your chance to become the resident expert in your neighborhood just in time for the Ron Howard film starring Tom Hanks.

4. Human Nutrition from an Evolutionary Perspective

Christopher Watters, Given Professor of Premedical Sciences, Biology

Our diets—what we eat, what we like to eat and what we ought to eat—are the subjects of this seminar. We will examine these subjects from an evolutionary perspective by asking and answering two fundamental questions: how did our ancestors eat and should we eat as they did? We will focus on the diets we think our hunting and gathering ancestors ate, as well as those of "modern" primitive societies and of our primate relatives. Using this perspective along with our modern understanding of nutrition, we will critically examine how we eat and how we possibly ought to eat, including the value of contemporary dieting plans, such as the high protein/high fat Atkins diet, diets emphasizing complex carbohydrates, and the more recent "Origin Diet."

5. A Geographic Tour of the Vermont Countryside

Peter Nelson, Assistant Professor of Geography

Students in this course will gain a geographer's perspective of the changing rural landscape while enjoying the splendid Vermont countryside by bicycle. Along the way, Professor Nelson will deliver lectures and workshops introducing participants to an array of processes transforming the Vermont landscape and to the tools geographers use to study and understand these changes. Lecture and workshop topics will include: agricultural responses by Vermont farmers to global food production systems, urban to rural migration and ensuing rural "gentrification," and an introduction to GIS/GPS techniques. The bicycling should be manageable for those in good physical shape, but Vermont is relatively hilly, so come prepared for some vigorous exercise.

REGISTRATION FORM

Alumni College XXX / August 31–September 4, 2005

Name: _____

Class: _____ Number of Alumni Colleges you have attended: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

My first choice is #_____ My second choice is #_____

Spouse/guest first choice is #_____ Their second choice is #_____

Special housing needs? _____

_____

Fee

$500 all-inclusive cost per person (tuition, books, lodging, meals, and evening entertainment at Bread Loaf).

"An exhilarating time, a rejuvenating experience."

Method of payment

❒ Check payable to "Middlebury College" enclosed

❒ Visa ❒ MasterCard

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Cardholder's name: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Please send form with payment to:

Alumni and Parent Programs Office
Meeker House, 46 Porter Field Road
5340 Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Need more information, please contact Glenna Emilo in the Alumni and Parent Programs Office at (802) 443-5335 or emilo@middlebury.edu.